

Treasure Hunt Ends For Year



"I SHALL RETURN"—George J. Greene, the Corpus Christi engineer who has been probing the depths of Oak Island for the past month, takes an over-the-shoulder glance at the legendary treasure hideout of pirate Captain Kidd. He packed his gear yesterday and will leave for Texas this week to plan a new assault in the Spring with bigger equipment and a mineral detector. (Photo by Wetmore).

(For More Pictures And Story Please See Page 3)

* * * *

* * * *

Found Everything But Treasure Vault

Texan Quits Oak Island Without Trace Of Gold

OAK ISLAND—Husky George J. Greene broke camp today, piled his equipment aboard a barge bound for Chester, tilted back his broad brim Stetson and uttered a pledge made famous by General Douglas MacArthur at Bataan—"I shall return."

The cigar-chewing petroleum engineer, who for the past four weeks has been drilling holes into this already hole-ridden island, has decided to go back to Texas and plan a new Spring assault in quest of legendary treasures.

SUNK FOUR HOLES

"I shall return in the Spring with a bigger rig and a mineral detection unit," he promised.

Greene has sunk four holes into the so-called "money pit", where legend says the fabulous Captain Kidd planted his loot.

"These holes haven't proved or disproved the legend about buried treasure. But they have convinced me that I should come back again," he said in an interview.

"I've found everything I expected to find, with the exception of that confounded concrete vault. I worked mainly with results of an expedition of 1850 which found wooden platforms well below 100 feet from the surface. I found the platforms, but not the vault," he said.

Greene is convinced he's going to need a bigger drill and a mineral detector "with a torpedo pipe" to get to the bottom of the mystery of this island of pirate tales.

"The tough part is to find the treasure. If I find it, I'll get it out, flood waters or no flood waters. Water doesn't bother an oil man," he assured.

His reference to flood waters concerns the troubles of previous expeditions. They apparently hit underwater tunnels which are linked to the sea.

While Greene wasn't hampered by water on this trip, he expects to be if he actually digs for the treasure.

"The water's there alright, but we could counteract that with a jet pump and sleeves of steel," he said.

The big Texan, whose cowboy boots and hat, and big cigar have become something of a legend themselves, ran into trouble drilling the fourth hole.

He hit a heavy layer of timber at the 65-foot mark and after piercing through that he found a cavity in the soil. The cavity prevented him from walling up a protective coat around his drill stem, and underground cave-ins resulted.

"Our drills were working for two days, but we couldn't get through that last hole," Greene explained.

According to information from the expedition of 1850, there is a concrete vault 153 feet, eight inches below the surface of Oak Island. A piece of parchment, and particles of concrete and metals were brought up from that level more than a hundred years ago.

But the flood waters have prevented people from getting to the vault.

Greene's crew found layers of timbers at 10-foot intervals in the three holes they bored. One of the holes extended to a depth of 182 feet.

ONLY LIMESTONE

"All we found in it was limestone," he said.

But he was confident that if anything lies at the bottom of the pit, "we should be able to find it with that mineral detector."

"It's the same type of machine as mining prospectors use in logging veins of lead and zinc. It measures the thickness of the seams of metal, and tells you exactly where to dig around," he explained.

"That cavity we hit this week was really something. We poured 100,000 gallons of water into it and it ran out... but where, I couldn't find out.

"Yesterday was what we called 'D-Day'—either we did it, or we didn't... hit the jackpot I mean.

"But I'm still convinced that those layers of oak aren't a hoax. We'll find out in the Spring. The weather's against us now," he said.

2384 - R.V. Harrow Papers

MGI Vol. 384

Oct 1/56